

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

My name is Mike O'Connor and I am the President of West Central Ohio Internet Link, LLC. (WCOIL). My wife and I started WCOIL in March of 1995 when most people did not know that the Internet existed. Today we provide service to 23,000 individuals and businesses in a ten county area in West Central Ohio. Many of the areas that we cover are rural and are only served by local independent ISP's like WCOIL. The big ISP's have neglected these areas and have even pulled out of these sparsely populated regions.

Many of the services we provide are not provided by the local telephone company, Sprint. As an example, for individuals we offer in home service, free Internet training, computer repair as well as others. For many small businesses we offer one stop service. We provide computers, Local Area Network (LAN) service and support as well as complete Internet services. Most of these services are not provided by Sprint now and is unlikely to be provided by them in the future. Why? Not even revenue to make a difference. The net result without local competition will be inadequate services to many individuals and businesses throughout West Central Ohio.

Congress has repeatedly stated that small businesses are the heart of our economy, yet the decision the FCC is being asked to make is whether small businesses are important to consumers, the economy, and to hundreds of thousands of employees throughout the United States. The FCC NPRM document specifically sets out to eliminate all small Internet Service Providers. It has become a few very large companies versus many thousands of small ISP's. A YES vote on FCC NPRM will do irreparable extensive damage to an entire industry of small ISP's. We will not be able to compete and will be extinct in a very short period of time. Ultimately, the consumers will be paying the highest price, loss of choice, loss of services, and higher prices with less competition.

If the FCC is serious about promoting deployment of broadband, the FCC must thoroughly investigate how the local telephone companies are making it virtually impossible for ISP's to resell their DSL at a profit. For years ISP's have been reselling dial-up service via the telephone companies lines and both companies have made a profit. The same model can be followed for DSL. If these two industries do not work together, then the cable companies will own the broadband market to themselves.

I strongly urge you to vote NO for changing the rules to let the local telephone company lock us out of the public switched network. I urge you to vote for an environment in which we (the telephone companies and ISP's) work together as wholesaler and retailer to deliver broadband to the all consumers. Remember, the Independent ISP's are the companies that began the Internet revolution and we are the companies that will allow it to continue!

I would be more than happy to offer my comments directly to the commissioners and answer any questions that they may have in person.

Sincerely,

Mike OConnor  
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